

**Governor** Michael R. Pence  
**Lt. Governor** Sue Ellspermann  
**Director** Ted A. McKinney

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ISDA Now Accepting Applications for USDA Organic Cost Share Programs**

Indianapolis - Indiana organic farmers and handlers can apply for a rebate of up to 75 percent of the cost of their organic certification. The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) is accepting applications for the Indiana Organic Cost Share Program from now until December 1, 2015.

Organic certification is a third-party verification system assuring consumers the organic products they buy are produced in accordance with federal organic regulations. Organic operations must follow National Organic Standards and are monitored through review of their records and on-site inspections at least once a year.

"This program is designed to make organic certification more affordable," said ISDA Director Ted McKinney. "We encourage organic producers to participate in this program and hope that it will help them recoup some of the expenses associated with becoming a USDA certified organic operation."

<p><u>Chart of Allowable and Unallowable Costs</u></p> <p>Below is a list with a sample of costs which may be reimbursed, as well as those which are ineligible. This list is meant to be demonstrative, not exhaustive.</p>	
<p><b>Allowable Costs</b></p>	<p><b>Unallowable Costs</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application Fees</li> <li>• Inspection costs</li> <li>• First-time USDA NOP certification fees</li> <li>• Travel costs/per diem for organic inspectors</li> <li>• User fees / sales assessments</li> <li>• Postage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late Fees</li> <li>• Inspections due to violations of NOP regulations</li> <li>• Any charges related to certifications other than USDA organic</li> <li>• Transitional certifications</li> <li>• Materials and Supplies</li> <li>• Equipment</li> </ul>

Funds for the cost share program come from a cooperative agreement with USDA. Operations that received certification (or had ongoing certification) between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015 are eligible for reimbursement of up to 75 percent of certification-related costs with a maximum of \$750 per category (crop, livestock, processing/handling, wild harvest).

To qualify, applicants must be certified organic by a USDA-accredited certifying agency. If you have questions about the processing of your application please contact Beth Dawson at (317) 232-8333 or email

[bdawson@lg.in.gov](mailto:bdawson@lg.in.gov). To learn more about the program or other ISDA programs please contact Bianca Gogel at (317) 800-1700 or [bigogel@isda.in.gov](mailto:bigogel@isda.in.gov).

## **ABOUT ISDA**

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director of ISDA is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

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